

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: May 29, 2002

To: Addressees

From: Timothy J. Method
Deputy Commissioner

Subject: Invitation to Discuss Water Quality Rules/Triennial Review etc.

IDEM would like to begin discussions related to the federally mandated review of the state's water quality standards. Accordingly, to begin discussions, we would like to invite a representative (or two) of your organization to meet with us to discuss:

- the process that is used to identify the policy goals of an upcoming review of the state's water quality rules; and
- the subsequent process for moving forward with one or a series of rulemakings

IDEM staff have begun to prepare for these discussions by evaluating past comments on rule proposals and identifying key issues that have arisen in the implementation of the NPDES permit program and in other areas.

To date, IDEM has:

- Sent for publication by the Legislative Service Agency on June 1 a first notice of rulemaking to revise the rules to include a statewide variance for mercury to address immediate permit implementation issues. IDEM is interested in beginning discussions immediately on this rulemaking.
- Reviewed a number of key issues related to the current bacteria criteria and its implementation that warrant further discussion and resolution;
- Reviewed the rulemaking obligations of SEA 431 from 2000;
- Reviewed concerns associated with the current water quality criteria and their implementation statewide, including antidegradation and special designations that warrant discussion

Please let us know if you are interested and who will be your representative for initial discussions. Mary Ellen Gray or I would be glad to discuss our purpose for this session

further. Mary Ellen can be reached at 317-233-2550 (mgray@dem.state.in.us). I can be reached at 317-233-3706 (tmethod@dem.state.in.us). Please RSVP to Larry Wu at lwu@dem.state.in.us by Friday, June 7, 2002.

We are planning a session on either June 18 or 19th and would appreciate information on your representatives' availability as well.